



# Lakeside News

October-December 2016 Edition

*you are invited to*  
HICKORY CREEK'S  
*first annual*  
**HALLOWEEN**  
FESTIVAL  
2.0

**GAMES**  
**FOOD**  
**MUSIC**



**PRIZES**  
**CANDY**  
**COSTUME**  
**CONTEST**

 SYCAMORE BEND PARK 

**OCTOBER 22**



**5 - 9 PM**

[www.facebook.com/hickorycreekPR](http://www.facebook.com/hickorycreekPR)

Dear Fellow Citizens,

I hope your Fall is off to a great start...surely some good Fall weather is right around the corner! The council has had a busy summer, so I'd like to share a few highlights and updates:



**Fire Services Contract:** The Town Council recently approved a new five-year contract for fire services with the Lake Cities Fire Department. A 65-page "Assessment of Emergency Services" conducted by Fire & Safety Specialists of College Station, TX, is available under "News" on the Hickory Creek website ([www.hickorycreek-tx.gov](http://www.hickorycreek-tx.gov)). The council explored two different options for fire service, but at this time, elected to renew our contract with the Lake Cities Fire Department.

**Budget & Tax Rate:** The Council prepared the operating budget and set the annual property tax rate for the fiscal year that began October 1, 2016. I am pleased to notify you that we reduced the property tax rate from .401367 per \$100 of value to .387319 per \$100, which is our **lowest tax rate in ten years** (2016). This rate reduction was noticed by Dave Lieber, the popular Dallas Morning News Watchdog columnist. In May, Mr. Lieber announced his "Watchdog's Guide to an Easy Tax Revolt," and challenged cities to lower their tax rates as property values rise. In a Watchdog column in September, Mr. Lieber noted "Of the 39 cities I studied, 20 kept their tax rates the same. Three increased, and 16 made cuts. If I have to pick winners — cities that did their best to lower the tax rate enough to keep tax revenue the same as last year (rare!)— applause goes to Grapevine. Other cities I found that are making sure their tax revenue does not increase are Heath, **Hickory Creek** and Cockrell Hill."

**Recycling Event:** Hickory Creek held a city-wide recycling event in August which was widely praised by citizens. Over one hundred households participated in the event, with 8,000 lbs. of paint, 1,250 lbs. of oil/transmission fluid, 1,050 lbs. of fertilizer and various other materials recycled. A Med Return Drug Collection Unit is still available in the town hall lobby if you wish to recycle unused or expired prescription medication.

**Main Street Construction:** The Lake Dallas and Hickory Creek Main Street project is ahead of schedule, and approximately 32% complete. The intersection of Main Street & South Hook Street in Hickory Creek was completed the end of September, and construction on the middle section from Carlisle to Lakewood Drive will take place over the next few weeks.

**Asphalt Streets:** Our public works crew will continue crack-sealing all of our asphalt streets to prepare for a new polymer modified cold-mix paving surface called Micro-Surface. This product, invented in Germany & tested on the Autobahn, is a cost effective remedy for a broad range of problems on today's streets. Micro-surfacing will begin in October, and once completed, all asphalt roads will have a new smooth, black surface, that will extend the life of our streets.

**Eagle Scout Projects:** I would like to congratulate Cody Coleman, Eric Robertson, Seth Terry and Harrison Smith for their hard work to complete the rank of Eagle Scout. These young men were presented plaques this summer to recognize their outstanding accomplishment, and to show our appreciation for the projects they completed in Hickory Creek parks.

**"See You at the Station" and "Back the Blue:"** After the tragedy this summer in Dallas, there has been an outpouring of support for our law enforcement officers and first responders. Citizens have stopped to say thanks, have dropped off food & goodies, and have brought their children to meet our officers. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, Hickory Creek officers were joined by Corinth officers, Lake Cities Firefighters, town staff and citizens for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "See You at the Station," where prayers were offered for all our first responders. Thanks to all who have supported our officers!

I look forward to seeing you around town!

Lynn Clark, Mayor





Thank you to everyone that participated in See You At The Station, September 21, 2016. Several first responders from the Lake Cities area, citizens, family members and their children were in attendance.

A special thanks to Mayor Lynn Clark and Mr. Kenneth Gordon for leading the morning prayer. It's wonderful to see the community come together for the greater good!

## Eagle Scout Projects



Seth Terry  
Sycamore Bend Fire Pit



Cody Coleman  
Sycamore Bend Restroom Improvement

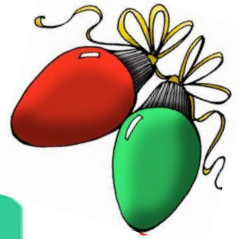


Eric Robinson  
Sycamore Bend Parking Barrier



Harrison Smith  
Arrowhead Park Restoration





*You're Invited To Our*



★ **TREE** ★  
**LIGHTING**



**SANTA :: MUSIC :: CRAFTS**

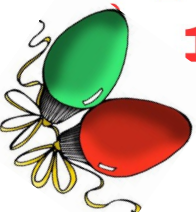
**FRIDAY DECEMBER 2ND**

★ **6PM UNTIL 8PM** ★

**TOWN OF HICKORY CREEK**

**1075 RONALD REAGAN AVENUE.**

**Hickory Creek, TX, 75065**



# Employee Spotlight



## Alyssa Martinez-Benner—

Alyssa is the animal services officer for the town and has been working here since December 2011. She is married to Jared Benner and they have four children together, Gracie, Raeden, Reece & Ryder. They also have three dogs Roadie, Whiskey and Dallas. Alyssa likes to watch her daughter Gracie cheer at football games and they like to BBQ together as a family. She likes building relationships with the citizens of Hickory Creek and their pets.



## Craig Hubbert-

Corporal Hubbert grew up in Krum, Texas. He obtained his Law Enforcement certification through the University of North Texas Police Academy. He joined the Town of Hickory Creek in 1997 where he served as a patrolman, FTO, bicycle patrol and Hostage Negotiator before being appointed to Patrol Supervisor. In the span of 18 years, Corporal Hubbert has gladly served with the cities of Hickory Creek, Corinth and Runaway Bay, Texas where he has worked in various capacities including 2 years as a team member of the Lake Cities combined S.W.A.T. team. Corporal Hubbert has two sons and a pair of Labrador Retrievers he enjoys spending his time with along with hobbies that include weight lifting and travel.

# Chief's Corner

October 2016

## 9-1-1 System Enhancement

### Text to 9-1-1

Citizens of Hickory Creek have a new tool at their disposal should they need help in an emergency situation and are unable to speak or hear. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Denco Area 9-1-1 District unveiled a new text-to-911 capability that will allow citizens and visitors to interact with public safety agencies via the text message feature of their wireless phone.

Making a voice call to 9-1-1 is always the best way to get help in an emergency situation. However, if you are in a situation where speaking could put you in danger or you have trouble hearing or speaking, sending a text to 9-1-1 may be your best option.

### How to text to 9-1-1

When texting to 9-1-1, just enter "911" in the number field; do not include any spaces or dashes. In the message field, type in your exact location including the address, if possible. Be as detailed as possible if you do not know the address - using intersections and landmarks. Type a brief description of the problem, press send.

### Important Tips

Pictures and videos cannot be sent to 9-1-1, so only use text. Keep your messages brief and to the point. Avoid using slang or abbreviations.

The 9-1-1 personnel will ask questions and give instructions; do not leave the conversation until instructed to by 9-1-1 personnel.

When traveling outside of the Denco Area 9-1-1 district jurisdiction, text to 9-1-1 is not available universally. In the event you attempt to text 9-1-1 from an area where it is not available, you will receive an automated message from the wireless phone provider indicating that a voice call must be placed to 9-1-1.

Remember, in an emergency your voice still works better to ensure the fastest and most appropriate and reliable response. However, there are going to be situations where voice-to-voice is just not an option. The thing to remember is call when you can, text if a voice call is not possible or practical.



Hickory Creek

**HELPING  
HANDS**

Neighbors helping  
Neighbors.



Hope you all have a great Thanksgiving and holiday season. This has been a very quiet year from the Helping Hands perspective, but a blessing for our citizens.

Everyday there is an on-going food drive (drop at town hall) which will support those in need for our Fill The Pantry project which happens every holiday season.

The food drive will serve as a support system for the Helping Hands Committee to assist with the FTP project (Fill The Pantry) as we did last year over the holidays.

Also, now until December 2<sup>nd</sup>, there is a Toys For Tots Donation Station in the town hall lobby as well as wreathes from the Spirit of Christmas .Please be sure to help with either toys or non-perishable food this holiday season. Simply run up to town hall if you have any donations.

Moving forward our Helping Hands committee will be looking for a few families in need who live in Hickory Creek. I hope we can bless them with meals/groceries/gift cards prior to the holidays. We would like to provide staple items for breakfast, lunch, dinner and a holiday meal for each family selected.

Thank you all again, we look forward to the Hickory Creek Helping Hands leaving a small print while blessing some local families in need.

Happy Holidays,

Paul & Bry Kenney

Hickory Creek Helping Hands

[helping.hands@hickorycreek-tx.org](mailto:helping.hands@hickorycreek-tx.org)

mobile 817-235-9944



# Community Reminders

## HICKORY CREEK ANIMAL SHELTER FUNDRAISER

NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> FROM 5 TO 9PM

4080 FM 2181  
Hickory Creek, Texas 75065

Join us at Palio's Pizza Café in Hickory Creek for a fundraiser benefitting the Hickory Creek Animal Shelter

Shelter staff and volunteers will be helping out to benefit our four-legged friends at HCAS.



Contact Hickory Creek Animal Shelter at (940) 465-7444 for additional information!



**Tuesday November 8**

On Election Day Hickory Creek residents will vote at town hall, 1075 Ronald Reagan Avenue, from 7 am to 7 pm.

For a list of early voting locations and times visit

[www.votedenton.com](http://www.votedenton.com).



HICKORY CREEK  
**ARBOR DAY**

WHEN:  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH  
LOCATION:  
SYCAMORE BEND PARK  
TIME: 9AM

Melissa@HickoryCreekParks.com



**Hickory Creek  
Parks & Rec**

Like Our Page  
@HickoryCreekPR





## *Town of Hickory Creek Elected Officials*

Left to right– Ian Theodore, Councilmember Place 5; Richard Dupree, Councilmember Place 2; Tracee Elrod, Councilmember Place 1; Mayor Lynn Clark; Mayor Pro Tem, Paul Kenney; Chris Gordon, Councilmember Place 3

## **HICKORY CREEK HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES**

Hickory Creek offices will be closed on the following days for holiday observances:

**Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Veterans Day**

**Thursday & Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Thanksgiving**

**Friday & Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas**

**Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**New Year's Day**





More than a million children and teens depend on buses to get them safely to and from the more than 9,000 Texas schools every day. They also depend on motorists to know the law and drive safely around school buses.

## Dangers for Students

The overriding factor for Texas school bus laws is the degree of dangers for students. The Texas Department of Public Safety says the greatest risk for students is when they get on or off a school bus. That's why school bus laws are particularly strict for drivers approaching school buses which are loading or unloading passengers.

**Nationally, about 20 students each year are killed when leaving or boarding a school bus, and numerous other students are injured, sometimes severely. Most of these deaths and injuries occur in a "danger zone" of around 10 feet on all sides of the bus.**

The majority of victims are 5 to 7 years of age, when children are more prone to run across roads suddenly. But students of other ages also have fallen victim, so don't relax your vigilance around a high school or intermediate school.

**Texas School Bus Law:** Texas Transportation Code Sec. 545.066.

- Stop for flashing red lights on a school bus, regardless of which direction you're headed.
- Continue your trip once the bus has moved, the flashing lights stop flashing or the bus driver signals it's okay to pass.
- Violations can lead up to a \$1,000 fine.



## Tips for Sharing the Road with School Buses:

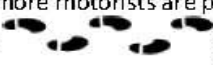
- Remember buses make frequent stops. Be prepared to stop for them.
- **Never pass a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing on the right or left.**
- Watch for children who cross in front of the bus when the bus is stopped.
- Look for children at bus stops and those running to bus stops.

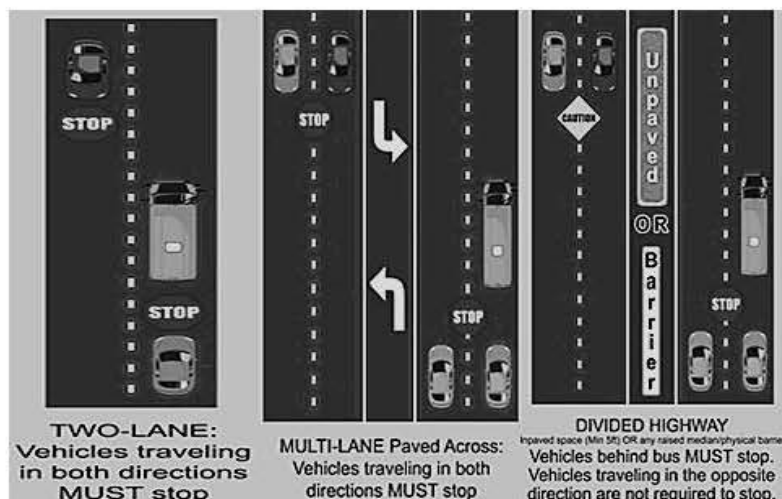
When a school bus is preparing to stop, the driver will activate the yellow flashing lights at approximately 300 feet before the stop. At the stop the vehicle will be put into neutral or park with the parking brake set to open the door and activate the red flashing lights with the stop arm/stop sign being extended and flashing

## Teach Your Children, It May Save Their Life:

When you are waiting for the school bus, you should wait at the bus stop, and stand well back from the curb.

### When you get off the bus:

- Look to the rear of the bus before you step off the bottom step. The Pupil Transportation Safety Institute tell us that more and more motorists are passing stopped school buses on the right shoulder - where the door is.
- Take  (five giant steps) straight out the bus door, and out of the danger zone.
- Make sure you have eye contact with the driver, and wait for the driver to signal before you cross in front of the bus.
- **Never** go back for anything you have left on the bus.
- **Never** bend down near or under the bus





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Lake Dallas TX 75065

**940-497-4267**

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Email us: [info@mytopgunins.com](mailto:info@mytopgunins.com)

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for over thirty years.*

3961 FM 2181      204 Hundley Dr.  
Corinth, TX      Lake Dallas, TX  
(940)497-4949      (940)497-4941

### "Buy Local Campaign"

Please remember our businesses that are affected by construction.

Let's support our local establishments and our local economy by keeping our tax dollars at home!

**verizon** ✓  
**Procom** | *Premium Wireless  
Retailer*

### Public Sector Solutions



Residents over 65- did you know the Hickory Creek provides a senior discount of almost 30% for your trash and recycling services? It's easy to get. Simply come to Town Hall with your trash bill and proof of age and town staff will let Waste Management know you're eligible for the discount on your bills going forward.



4080 FM2181, Hickory Creek, 75065

(940)497-7020

Business Hours

Sunday-Thursday-11AM-9:30PM

Friday-Saturday-11AM-10PM

\*Like our Facebook & Instagram\*

@palioshickorycreek





Town of Hickory Creek  
1075 Ronald Reagan Avenue  
Hickory Creek, Texas 75065  
940-497-2528

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**We're on the Web !**  
**[www.hickorycreek-tx.gov](http://www.hickorycreek-tx.gov)**

**Follow us on Twitter**  
**@HickoryCreekTX**

## Visit Your Town Hall

Parks & Recreation Board—1st Monday @7PM  
Planning & Zoning Commission—1st Wednesday @7PM  
Town Council—3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 PM  
Economic Development Corporation—4th Thursday @7PM  
[www.hickorycreekEDC.com](http://www.hickorycreekEDC.com)



**Police Department**  
1075 Ronald Reagan Avenue  
940-497-3520  
Police/Fire Emergency 911  
Non-emergency (940)349-1600

**Hickory Creek Animal Services,  
Shelter & Adoption Center**  
970 Main Street  
(940)349-1600  
Monday-Friday  
9 AM– 4:30 PM

**Hickory Creek Town Hall**  
1075 Ronald Reagan Avenue  
940-497-2528  
Mon– Thurs  
7 AM – 4:30 PM  
Friday  
7:30 AM – 11:30 AM